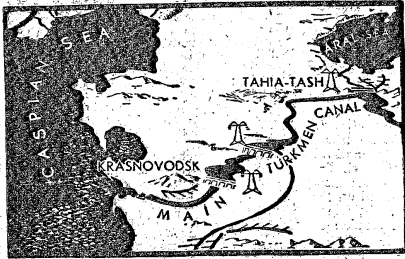


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SOVIET WEEKLY, December 11, 1952

Great Canal in

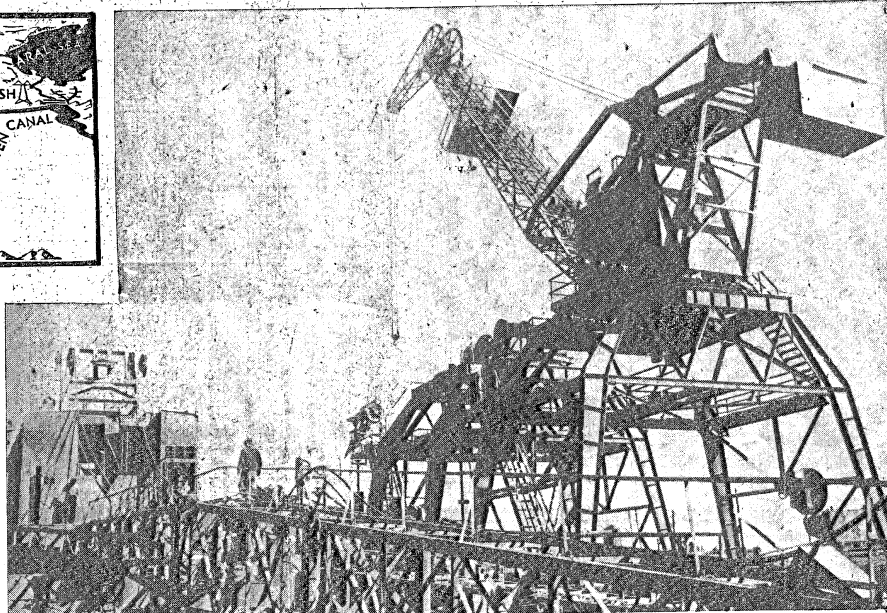


ONLY just over two years ago—in September, 1950—the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers adopted a decision to construct the Main Turkmenian Canal. A many sided project, it will be the world's largest irrigation scheme. The main canal alone, navigable over its entire length from the Amu Darya to the Caspian Sea, will be nearly 700 miles long.

When completed, the project will profoundly change Turkmenia's economy and culture as well as that of neighbouring regions of Uzbekistan and Kara Kalpakia. It will transform geography and climate over a vast area.

At Cape Takhia Tash, where the swift waters of the Amu Darya will start their journey through the Kara Kum Desert to the Caspian, a whole town for the project's builders has sprung up with incredible rapidity.

Fronted by comfortable two-storey stone



A powerful portal crane, installed at Takhia Tash on the Amu Darya, the starting point of the Main Turkmenian Canal



Muhammed Seifullin (left) and Vasily Mirónov worked together as excavator operators on the Volga-Don. Now they have met again on the banks of the Amu Darya



Intensive research is going on everywhere along the site of the future canal. Valentin Mordovin (left) and Karyagdy Muradov are here sampling sand to determine its moisture content at various depths

houses, and lined with young trees, the streets of the new town of Takhia Tash are noisy each morning with the merry voices of children on their way to school—to their new, secondary school, perhaps.

Endless lines of lorries and cars stream through the town in all directions: to and from the docks, the airport, the railway station, the sand and stone quarries.

Everything we see in the young town

to-day—its dwelling houses and railway, secondary school, and brick factory, power station and the handsome buildings of the restaurant and summer theatre—everything has been erected in a mere eighteen months.

And construction is still proceeding at full blast. Takhia Tash is growing and improving all the time.

The whole country is taking part in the gigantic construction now going on in the

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THE STRUGGLE FOR A UNITED GERMANY IS A STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

THE World Conference for a Peaceful Settlement of the German Problem, held in Berlin from November 8 to 10, was attended by delegates from 15 European countries. The delegates—scientists and workers, manufacturers, peasants and handicraftsmen, Christians and Marxists, liberals and conservatives, active democrats and people of no party at all—made a thorough exploration of the ways and means for a just and peaceful settlement for Germany.

The conference arrived at very important conclusions. Its resolution emphasises that the Bonn and Paris agreements are bound to lead to intensification of the arms drive, the deepening of the division of Germany, the aggravation of the danger of a fratricidal war between the Germans, and increased international tension.

These agreements, therefore, should not be ratified, but should be categorically rejected, the conference declared. The only correct way towards the relaxation of tension between East and West in Germany—Europe's chief danger point—was, it stated, through four-Power negotiations for the earliest conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany. The German people, it pointed out, should be given the right to take part in the negotiations for the conclusion of the peace treaty.

A joint statement, issued by 150 delegates from Western Germany and the German

by D. Melnikov

Democratic Republic, who met during the conference, indicated ways to agreement among the Germans—a most essential prerequisite for a general peace settlement for Germany.

The conference, therefore, pointed out with justification in its resolution the paramount practical and political significance of the joint statement. In substance, it demanded:

A refusal to ratify the "general treaty."

The formation of an all-German government on the basis of free, direct elections by secret ballot throughout Germany.

The withdrawal of the occupation troops from Germany.

The ending of Germany's remilitarisation.

The rejection of military alliances and pacts which serve to prepare war.

"A refusal to ratify the agreement on the European defence community" and an end to all rearmament in the Federal Republic," the statement says "will make it possible to stop all the counter-measures taken—after the signature of the Bonn and Paris agreements—by the Government of the German Democratic Republic, which has declared that it is prepared to annul them at any time if agreement is reached on the question of the holding of free, all-German elections, and on the peaceful reunion of Germany."

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Similar conclusions were reached by the European Workers' Committee against the Remilitarisation of Germany, which met in Berlin from November 5 to 7.

Delegates from Bulgaria, Belgium, Britain, Finland, France, Rumania, Hungary, Norway, Denmark and other countries described in their speeches the struggle of the working class of these countries against the remilitarisation of Western Germany.

The Committee appealed to the men and women workers of Europe: "Work for a just and peaceful settlement of the German problem. This will be a valuable contribution to the defence of the peace and to its preservation in Europe and throughout the world."

A number of other conferences and meetings were held while these two conferences were in session in Berlin.

A world conference of anti-fascist resistance fighters was held at Weimar. An information conference on the German problem was held in Selesat, (France) by the *Union Francaise des Anciens Combattants* (Federated Union of French Ex-Servicemen). Meetings of working people in many cities of France and Western Germany adopted resolutions demanding a refusal to ratify the military agreements and calling for a peaceful settlement of the German problem.

All these conferences, meetings and rallies confirmed the main fact, namely, that a considerable section of European public opinion was categorically opposed to the policy, now being pursued by international reaction, of splitting Germany and of remilitarising its Western part.

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It is hard in our times to ignore public opinion, the voice of the masses. And proof of this is contained, in particular, in the fact that, contrary to the will of reaction, the Bonn and Paris agreements have not yet been ratified in a number of European countries. Under popular pressure the Bonn Bundestag recently voted down a proposal that the Bonn agreement should be discussed during November.

No other factor but pressure from the masses of the people, who are indignant at the revival of German imperialism, can explain the developments now to be observed among the ruling circles in the West European countries.

Official representatives prominent in politics are disassociating themselves in increasing numbers from the policy of the division and remilitarisation of Germany. Leading members of the Christian Democratic Union—Adenauer's own party—in Western Germany have announced their resignation from that party. They include among others Hans Bodensteiner, a member of the Bundestag; Archbishop Fringe of Cologne; Kater, a member of the executive board of the C.D.U. in the British zone; Kaufman, a former Minister of Finance in Wuertemberg-Baden; and Huesing, a former burgomaster.

Statements made by many official representative and public men in France are significant in this respect. It will be remembered that Vincent Auriol, President of France, has recently denounced remilitarisation. This policy has also been criticised by Edouard Herriot, President of the French Parliament; Jacques Bardoux, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Daladier, a leader of the French Radical Party; Arnal, Briffaud and other members of the National Assembly.

The universal desire of the French and German people to find a correct, democratic and peaceful settlement of the German problem, makes it easier to carry out a change in Franco-German relations, which for so long had been marked by hostility and conflict.

Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic emphasised in a recent statement that the German Democratic Republic would never permit Germany to

HERE AND THERE

KRIVOI ROG, iron mining and engineering town is growing rapidly. Since the war more than 2,700,000 square feet of living floor space have been made available for occupation in the town, apart from some 3,000 houses built privately by workers with the help of State credits.

Soviet figures for living floor space exclude space devoted to kitchens, bathrooms, lavatories, halls and passageways. A very rough idea of the number of dwellings involved can be calculated by comparison with M. G. Pervukhin's report to the Moscow Soviet on November 6 (in *Soviet Weekly* of November 20), in which he said that the 463 million square feet of living floor space built in cities and factory housing estates from January, 1951 to October, 1952 were "the equivalent of more than one million two-roomed flats." "Two rooms" here would, of course, be excluding kitchens, bathrooms, lavatories, halls and passageways.

This year 200 million roubles have been appropriated for the construction of houses and service establishments in the town. Six new schools, a builders' club, a miners' palace of culture, and many other buildings have been erected. Palaces of culture are being completed for the workers of the mining equipment plant and at a number of mines.

The area already has 26 clubs and palaces of culture, two cinemas, a theatre and 107 libraries.

New Construction in Ivanovo

EXTENSIVE construction is under way in Ivanovo, major Soviet textile centre. Close to 150 blocks of flats, public utilities, schools and other educational institutes, kindergartens and creches are going up.

A big housing estate for power workers has grown up near to the well-appointed homes of the workers of the Melange Mills. In the last year 22 large blocks of flats, a kindergarten and nurseries have arisen on the steep bank of the Uvoda River.

The Melange, the Bolshaya Ivanovskaya Manufaktura and other mills are building many homes and cultural and service institutions. A new building for the local teachers' training institute is nearing completion.

Former Nomads' New Life

THE new village erected by the Stalin Collective Farm in Ol'sky District on the Kolyma River is a long way from any other inhabited locality. Not long ago the site of the village itself was marked by only a few old nomad tents. Now all collective farmers live in well built cottages. The village has a school, hospital, a store, a bakery and a power station.

The collective farm now has about 9,000 reindeer and its income from reindeer breeding is close to a million roubles a year. The one time nomads lead a happy and prosperous life, and their collective enterprise grows from year to year.

carry out another war against the French people.

By fighting for the re-establishment of a united Germany on a peaceful basis, the democratic forces of Germany are making their contribution towards the maintenance of peace in Europe.

The aims of these democratic forces were formulated recently in the Programme for the National Reunion of Germany put forward by the German Communist Party. They make three principal national demands: unity, peace and independence.

All the peoples need a peaceful settlement of the German problem. The Soviet Union has repeatedly expressed its desire to give every assistance towards such a settlement. It was the U.S.S.R. that submitted for the consideration of the four great Powers the Draft Principles of a Peace Treaty with Germany, principles which accord with the interests of peace in Europe and throughout the world.

In accordance with the Potsdam Agreement, the Soviet Union has been consistently pursuing its policy aimed at bringing about the earliest conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, the withdrawal of all occupation troops from that country, and its re-establishment as a united, independent, peace-loving, democratic state. Only such a Germany can put an end to its aggressive and predatory traditions, and become a real bulwark of peace in Europe.

A. Y. VYSHINSKY

The Korean Question

Speech at U.N.O.

NOVEMBER 10

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Two Soviet singers, Mark Raisen, operatic bass of the Moscow Bolshoi, and Nina Gusevnikova, soprano, photographed on their arrival at Victoria Station on Monday, to join the Soviet cultural delegations in Britain



Konstantin Fedin (right), well-known Soviet writer, made a point of visiting Burns's cottage during a visit to Scotland. With him is Mr. McMyin, curator of the cottage